

The Prez Sez

There is plenty that we need to consider in the business meeting this month:

- 1) vote on getting cab machines for the Craft Center
- 2) discussion/vote on committing the Club to provide expendable materials for the machines we have given to the Crafts Center. (replacement dyna laps, wheels for the cab machines, etc.)
- 3) discussion/vote on the Club subsidizing classes for Club members. – how much and to whom.
- 4) first general consideration of the amendments to the By-Laws



I would like to thank those that made the cabochon workshop a success. I certainly had a good time in spite of the chaos that I helped create.

From the Editor...



Be sure to review to updated by-laws and bring your suggestions. This will be our “Program” for July.

The Club is still in search for an apparent brave soul to direct the programs. I have a contact for slide programs that can be borrowed thru the mail. Perhaps a fairly new member has some wonderful ideas and would like to become more involved in the club.

We are almost to the scary game where we grab “volunteers” from the audience. Unless you really want to hear your President pontificate endlessly. Have mercy!

For those of you who are wondering what happened to the field trips... well the same thing that happened to the programs. I have found a brave soul willing to work with me to learn the ropes and we will resume the trips in September. Remember that the pyrite location – Glendon -occurs in mid-October.



Complete list of Refreshment Volunteers

July – Marion & Mickey Broadway

August – Ice Cream Social
 September – C & C Hummel
 October – Charlie Bender
 November – Debbie & Jerry Miller

Gem & Mineral Shows

July 25-28	Franklin, NC Wholesale & Retail Shows
August 1-4	Spruce Pine Wholesale and Retail Shows
Aug 30-Sept 2	Hendersonville, NC Gem & Mineral Society
Sept 13-15	Asheville, NC “Treasures”
Sept 28	2 nd Annual Greensboro, NC Rockswap of the Carolinas



I attended the Rockswap in Greensboro and enjoyed the day very much.
 I plan attending this year, Editor

Announcement

John Sinkankas passed away in May.

Many of us who visited the "old" Smithsonian exhibit will remember seeing the large faceted stone display (on the left side of the room which had the vaults containing the Hope and other valuable stones). John cut those stones for the exhibit.

A man of many talents he truly "wrote the book" on lapidary and will truly be missed, not only by those of us who were fortunate to know him, but also by all members of the hobby.

Carolyn Weinberger
 EFMLS Editor

THINGS REALLY DO “GO BETTER” WITH COKE®

1. In many states the highway patrol carries two gallons of Coke® in the truck to remove blood from the highway after a car accident.
2. You can put a T-bone steak in a bowl of Coke® and it will be gone in two days.
3. To clean a toilet: pour a can of Coca-cola® into the toilet bowl and let it sit for an hour, then flush clean. The phosphoric acid in Coke® removes stains from vitreous china.
4. To remove rust spots from chrome car bumpers: Rub the bumper with a crumpled-up piece of aluminum foil dipped in Coca-cola®
5. To clean corrosion from car battery terminals: Pour a can of Coca-cola® over the terminals to bubble away the corrosion.
6. To loosen a rusted bolt: Apply a cloth wet with Coca-cola® to the rusted bolt for several minutes.
7. To bake a moist ham: Empty a can of Coke® into the baking pan, wrap the ham in aluminum foil, and bake. Thirty minutes before the ham is finished, remove the foil, allowing the drippings to mix with the Coke® for sumptuous gravy.
8. To remove grease from clothes: Empty a can of Coke® into a load of greasy clothes, add detergent, and run through a regular cycle. The Coke® will help loosen grease stains.
9. It will also clean road haze from your windshield.



FYI: The active ingredient in Coke® is phosphoric acid. Its pH is 2.8. It will dissolve a nail in about 4 days. To carry Coke® syrup the commercial truck must use the hazardous material place cards reserved for highly corrosive materials. The distributors have been using it to clean the engines of their trucks for about 20 years.

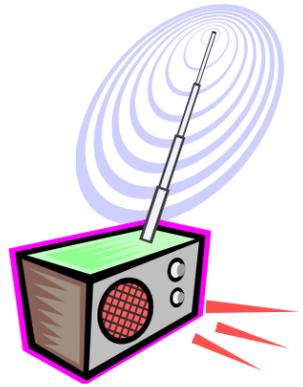
Via e-mail, From The Mountain Gem, Franklin, NC

Real Rock Radio

by David K. Hackett

There was a time before television when radio reigned supreme. Every kid back then longed for his own radio, but during the depression radios were expensive. The solution was to build a crystal radio. Now, most kids opted to save their pennies to buy a commercially mounted crystal, but the truly enterprising young man would go digging for his crystal. A small pyrite, or galena crystal makes an excellent radio detector crystal, though bornite, chalcopyrite, cerussite, zincite, and molybdenite make fine radio detectors too. Even hematite should work, though I do not know of anyone ever trying it. Galena seems to be best for reception but is delicate to tune, while pyrite is best for Short Wave frequencies, and easily tuned.

Finding a good crystal is the easy part, because any small crystal of these minerals should work. The tough part is mounting the crystal into a detector stand. It can be soldered or clipped, but it should be firmly held by a conducting mount. A cat's whisker wire must then be positioned over the crystal in a fashion so that it can be moved over its surface to find the hot spots. Galena requires a much finer cat's whisker than pyrite, and so is harder to tune than the pyrite. Once your crystal is mounted in its stand all you need is a couple of copper wire coils, and some earphones to tune in the world. Of course, the whole task now is purely an exercise in survival electronics -- Given the cheap availability of high tech radios which have gains thousands of times better than the best crystal set, no wonder this fascination died with our parents generation, or grandparents if you are one of the younger folks among us. Then of course, even if moved to build a crystal radio set, no natural mineral crystal is going to out perform a modern manufactured germanium diode.



Now you might ask why I would dredge up an old triviality like this? The fact is I just stumbled onto it in several WEB pages while researching electrical prospecting and telluric currents. While most rocks are considered insulators, they do vary in their ability to conduct electricity. The Electrical properties of rocks have been explored as a technique for finding mineral deposits, as well as for finding layered structures that might hold oil. My interest revolves around the electrical phenomenon of what has been called the mineral lights.

These like the poorly understood phenomenon of earthquake lights, and ball lightning seem to relate to the electrical nature of the rocks. Yet little research has been done on telluric currents and the natural electrical nature of the earth. The magnetosphere, the ionosphere, the aurora, thunderstorms and telluric currents form one giant earth girdling circuit, yet very little is understood about the relationship of these elements to one another in this circuit, nor how it influences life. It is curiously interesting, and probably not coincidental, that human brain waves and the earth's natural harmonic frequency both hover around 15 to 20 hertz.

Now all this is grist for my better understanding of the Brown Mountain Lights. I have not the time to build a crystal radio. However, for those who might have the time as well as some spare pyrite or galena, I can recommend Alan Klase's WEB site (<http://www.webex.net/~skywaves/home.htm>).

Here you will find complete instructions for mounting crystals into stands and building crystal radios. By all means if you build a working crystal set from one of your mineral specimens bring it down and share it with the rest of the rockhounds, because most of us just like to see what others have done, since we are too lazy or short on time to do it ourselves. A real rock radio ought to impress any true rockhound.

Via Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society *KG&MS*

The Top Ten Reasons to Get Into Micromounting

by Tim Jokela, Jr.

Here's a top ten list - just like Letterman's, but without the funny bits or the canned laughter. There are many reasons to get into micromounting, but these are the top ten.

(For those unfamiliar with the term, micromounting is the study of minerals that require magnification for best appreciation. Micromounters generally use low-power (10-60x) binocular microscopes, and painstakingly mount the specimens in micromount boxes, which are about 20mm on edge. You know you're a micromounter when you find yourself mounting a half-millimeter crystal on a toothbrush bristle. Sound cool? Read on!)



10 - STORAGE - While you probably can't fit a thousand micromounts on the head of a pin, you can sure fit them in a small box under your bed, making micromounting ideal for apartment dwellers or anyone who has heard the immortal phrase "Get those rocks out of here!"

9 - EASY COLLECTING - Field collecting superb 10cm crystals of a rare mineral isn't particularly easy, but the micromounter can find something of interest almost anywhere.

8 - PERFECTION - Micro crystals are perfectly formed and undamaged far more often than cabinet specimens. They are the peak of aesthetics.

7 - VARIETY - There's only a few hundred minerals out there that come in nice big crystals, and almost no new species are found in sizeable crystals. Go to any mineral show and what do you see - table after table of aquamarine, quartz, and fluorite. Micromounters work with far more species than hand-specimen collectors, and are familiar with far more rarities.

6 - LOW PRICES - The average price of a micromount is \$3. Really expensive ones are \$20. The initial expense of a good scope and proper light is pretty steep, but after that you're set.

5 - NO FAKES - When a lot of money is changing hands for a fine cabinet piece, one has to be wary that the specimen hasn't been altered or faked in some way. Faking micromounts is not only extremely rare, it's nearly impossible, as a microscope easily reveals glue where it shouldn't be.

4 - CHEAP SHIPPING - Sending 100 micromounts by airmail to Europe is far more affordable than 100 cabinet pieces.

3 - YEAR ROUND FUN - A large part of what drives field collectors is the thrill of discovery. The micromounter with a good hoard of material doesn't have the constraints of a field season - no matter what the weather is like he can pull some rocks out of storage, trim them down, and find fantastic crystal-filled vugs never before seen by man. The micromounter can delve through his stock of material and find new stuff any day of the week, and he can go collecting in his basement even if it's 2 AM and 20 degrees below outside. It's a year round hobby.

2 - WEIRD & WONDERFUL - The micromounter sees things that aren't even imagined by 'macro' collectors. Things like spiral millerite crystals, Sweet Home Mine rhodochrosite rhombs with moving bubble inclusions, or minerals like rutile, pyrite, and boulangerite in ring crystals, to name a very few of the bizarre things seen by the micromounter.

1 - FREE STUFF! - Last time you went to your average, garden-variety mineral show, did they have tables filled with fine cabinet specimens free for the taking? At micromount symposia, give-away tables loaded with interesting stuff are standard practice. Micromounters are a very generous bunch!

CAROLINA CHATS

By Carl Goerch

(note—from the perspective of 1944, not copyrighted, help yourself)

PART III – Long Underwear

About three years ago, we started running a series of historical sketches, taking up one county at a time. This necessitated quite a lot of traveling, and these journeys have given me a picture of North Carolina that I wouldn't take anything for.

Several of us were up in Ed Foulks' room in the Sir Walter Hotel one evening and somebody make the remark that long drawers had completely gone out of fashion and that it was doubtful whether a man could be found in North Carolina who was still wearing them.

I disagreed.

"You don't know what you're talking about," said Banks Arendell. Others in the group seemed to feel the same way about it. "All right," I told them. "I'll prove it to you".

About a week after that, I was driving from Wilmington to Raleigh. Shortly after passing through Whiteville and while heading for Chadbourn, I happened to glance toward the right and saw a clothesline being fanned by a rather stiff wind.

On the clothesline, among other items, were two pairs of honest-to-goodness men's long drawers.

I jammed on the brakes and brought the car to a sudden stop. Taking my camera out of the glove compartment, I walked in the direction of the house. There was nobody in sight, so I figured that the people who lived there probably were out working in the fields, and that I might just as well go ahead and take the picture without saying anything to anybody about it.

I opened up the camera, focused it on the clothesline and pulled the trigger just as I heard somebody holler from the direction of the house. I looked around and saw a middle-aged woman standing on the back steps. There was a frown on her face.

"Did you want to see somebody?" she asked. "No, it's all right," I assured her. "I'm just taking a picture of your drawers here on the line." I could hear her gasp despite the fact that she was almost fifty feet away.

"You're doing what?" she demanded, as though doubting what she had heard.

"Taking a picture of these-here drawers," I repeated, waving in the direction of the garments.

"You wait a minute... John!... Oh, John!" There was a brief interval and then a rather stout man came around the corner of the building. "That man," she said, pointing at me, "is taking a picture of our drawers!"

"The hell you say!" exclaimed John.

"I ain't either," I corrected him. "I'm just taking a picture of the long ones. I don't care anything about any of the others." I pointed at the two long garments.

John came closer. "Them's my drawers!" he exclaimed.

"I'm not doing them any harm," I explained. "All I want is a picture of them."

"What in the name of common sense do you want to take a picture of my drawers for?"

"Well, you see; I run a magazine up in Raleigh, and I wanted to show folks that long drawers are still being worn. So when I saw these swinging on the line, I just stopped to take a picture."

"You want a picture of my drawers to put in a magazine?"

"That's right."

"My drawers?... Now looka here, my friend. I don't want to make no trouble for anybody, but damned if you're going to print a picture of my drawers where people all over North Carolina can see them. It ain't respectable, and I won't stand for it. You jes' take your camera and git off'n my land."

I got; but I'll bet if he had known that I already had taken the picture, I wouldn't have left so easily.

Anyway, the gang in Raleigh were entirely wrong in the statement they made. There are still plenty of long drawers left in North Carolina, but if anybody wants any more pictures, they'll have to take them themselves.

